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U.S. reportedly held son of Nazi used as a spy

PARIS [Reuters]—American intelligence agents who recruited Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie after World War II held his infant son hostage to guarantee his return from spying missions, according to Barbie's French daughter-in-law.

Francoise Crozier de Altmann also said in an interview published Sunday by the weekly Journal du Dimanche that Barbie had expected his extradition to France from Bolivia after the election of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand in May, 1981.

Bolivia, where Barbie, 69, had lived since 1951 under the name Altmann, deported Barbie to France last February. The former Gestapo officer is in a Lyons prison awaiting trial for crimes against humanity. He was sentenced to death in absentia twice by French courts.

Francoise Altmann, who married Barbie's son Klaus Georg in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 1968, said in the interview that Barbie's contacts

with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency began shortly after the end of World War II.

"In 1946, the Americans sequestered his baby Klaus Georg. They wanted to be sure that Barbie would return from the missions they assigned to him. The baby was the hostage," she was quoted as saying.

PREVIOUS REPORTS have said that Barbie began working for the Americans in 1947 or 1948, providing information on other Nazis and intelligence information from the Soviet zone of occupied Germany in exchange for protection.

The reports have said that U.S. intelligence helped Barbie evade French officials seeking his extradition in the postwar years.

Klaus Georg was born in December, 1946, according to Barbie's German record and Bolivian naturalization certificate. He died in Bolivia in a plane crash in May, 1980.